

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02886 312330 Z

64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 CAB-09 FAA-00 MC-02 AID-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /151 W
----- 092050

P R 312214 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7620

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2886

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EC, UR

SUBJECT: REPORTS THAT ECUADOR MAY BUY SOVIET MIG AIRCRAFT

REF: QUITO DAO 021313 Z NOV 72 NOTAL

1. LOCAL PRESS CARRIES AN AFP STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON MAY 29, 1973 REPORTING ON AN ARTICLE IN AVIATION WEEK SAYING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ATTEMPTING TO SELL CHILE, ECUADOR AND PRU MIG-21 S AND THAT PILOTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE VISITED THE SOVIET UNION BY INVITATION TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THAT FIGHTER.

2. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO ECUADOREAN PILOTS HAVE RECENTLY VISITED THE SOVIET UNION. WE DOUBT THAT THE GOE IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING BUYING MIGS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ECUADOR IS ABOUT TO BUY BETWEEN FOUR AND EIGHT BRITISH- MADE JAGUARS. NEITHER THE F-5 NOR THE MIG HAS
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SUFFICIENT RANGE TO DEFEND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, A
FACT WHICH IS OSTENSIBLY THE JAGUAR' S BEST SELLING POINT.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CANNOT TOTALLY DISCOUNT AN
MIG-21 PURCHASE BY THE GOE. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR
OFFERED THE GOE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN NOVEMBER 1972
(REFTEL), AND THIS OFFER INCLUDED AIRCRAFT. FURTHERMORE
THE GOE IS VERY SENSITIVE TO PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES,
AND IT UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWS THAT THE GOP IS CONSIDERING
ACQUIRING SOME MIGS OR F-5 S. OTHER FACTORS FAVORING
THE ECUADOREAN PURCHASE OF MIGS ARE 1) THAT THE PLANES
COULD BE AVAILABLE BY AIR FORCE DAY, OCTOBER 28 (THE
AIR FORCE IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE SMALL SIZE, BAD
CONDITION AND AGE OF ITS FLEET), AND 2) THEY WOULD
PROBABLY COST SOMEWHAT LESS THAN A COMMERCIALY
BOUGHT F-5 (OR ONLY 40 PERCENT OF THE COST OF A JAGUAR).
CHAPLIN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MASS, EC, UR
To: ARA
DIA WASHDC
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